

Primary Music at John XXIII College

A comprehensive instrumental programme is offered at the College for Primary students. Over 180 primary students currently take lessons in Piano, Singing, Violin, Viola, Cello, Guitar (Classical and Electric), Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone Percussion.

A large number of co-curricular music activities are available, Primary String Orchestra, Primary Strings, Mini Minors, Year 5 Band, Primary Band, Primary Choir, Primary Auditioned Choir, Primary Guitar Ensembles and a variety of smaller ensembles.

Instrumental Lessons

Students in the Primary School are recommended to learn only one instrument. Should a second instrument be chosen it must be at one of the following times – at 8.30am, recess, lunch and 3.00pm, (later after school or before school is also an option). This policy is to optimise the effective learning time children have in the classroom each week.

Instrumental tuition works on a rotating timetable. It is College policy that lessons rotate to prevent students missing out on the same subject lesson each week. A student will, therefore, attend a lesson on a given day at, for example, 12.00 – Week 1, 12.30 – Week 2, 1.30– Week 3, 2.00 – Week 4 and so on. Primary lessons are to avoid Literacy and Numeracy times (ie Periods 1-3).

Year 1 and Year 2 students are offered one instrument only – either Piano or Guitar.

The majority of primary lessons for Years 1 – 4 should take place in the Primary area, i.e the Primary Music Room, and the Multi Purpose Room (MP2) for piano and guitar.

Year 3 Strings & Year 5 Band Programs

In Year 2 and Year 4 students are given an aural test and the top students from each group are offered the opportunity to have subsidised lessons in the following year.

The Year 3 Strings program involves lessons in violin, viola and cello while the Year 5 Band Program offers lessons in clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, flute and percussion.

The cost of the programme is \$550.00 for the year which includes all lessons, books, instrument hire and accessories. This represents a 50% saving on the usual cost of learning an instrument for a year.

The students are taught in groups of three and receive one ½ hour lesson per week. These lessons will be scheduled at 8.30am or 3.00pm on a day of the week. The children are issued with an appropriate instrument, music book and music diary at their first lesson that are to be taken home for practice and brought to school on the lesson day. Group lessons commence in Term 1 Week 4.

Conditions concerning group lessons

Group lessons will not be made up. If a student is missing, the lesson still has to take place. Please take this into account if participating in group lessons.

Primary Choirs

There are 2 Primary Choirs. One will be a special performance-based choir with rehearsals to be held out of school time. A high level of commitment will be expected. A special name and uniform will be devised and a program of performances scheduled for the year. The choir will be auditioned by the Director of Music.

Primary Performance Opportunities

Primary students have the opportunity to perform in the open Twilight Recitals that occur at the end of each month. These are written in the College calendar. Students are also encouraged to perform at public events such as assemblies and class assemblies and may also be able to perform reflective music at Mass.

The Primary Ensembles have an end of year concert in Term 4 that are organized by the Directors of each Ensemble and scheduled during their rehearsal time.